

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBABAN 02150 01 OF 03 241114Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 /082 W
-----038695 241132Z /12

R 240830Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5054
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 MBABANE 2150

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINR, WZ, SF
SUBJECT: SWAZILAND SECURITY AFFAIRS AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

1. SUMMARY. SWAZILAND POLICE' INTELLIGENCE BRANCH INDICATES THAT,
OWING TO SHORTAGE OF FUNDS, MEN, AND VEHICLES, IT DOES NOT HAVE
ADEQUATE INFO ON LOCAL ANC AND PAC ACTIVITIES. ON BASIS OF INFO
IT POSSESSES, HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT REGARD LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY AS DIRECT THREAT TO SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT.
THIS MAY WELL CHANGE WITH THE INCREASED STRESSES THAT WILL OCCUR,
BETWEEN SWAZILAND ON ONE HAND AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND
MOZAMBIQUE ON THE OTHER, AS MANY OF THE YOUNG BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS
WHO FLED REPUBLIC IN AFTERMATH OF 1976 RIOTS BEGIN TO RETURN
HOME. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT POLITICAL AND TERRORIST TRAILS IN SOUTH
AFRICA AND SWAZILAND AS WELL AS THE RECENT GOS
CRACKDOWN ON THE PAC HAVE FOCUSED INCREASED ATTEN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MBABAN 02150 01 OF 03 241114Z

TION ON SWAZILAND, ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE ANC AND
PAC AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SWAZILAND. FOLLOWING
THE INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE WITH A GOVERNMENT
IN POWER SYMPATHETIC TO THE RSA LIBERATION MOVEMENT
GOALS, SWAZILAND HAS APPARENTLY BECOME THE MAIN
ROUTE INTO AND OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR ANC AND PAC
MEMBERS AND ARMS. (BOTSWANA STILL RECEIVES THE

LARGEST NUMBER OF REFUGEES.) THIS SITUATION IS DUE TO THREE MAIN FACTORS.

A. SWAZILAND'S PROXIMITY

TO THE MAJOR URBAN AREAS OF BOTH THE WITWATERSRAND AND NATAL. THE NATAL CONNECTION MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PREVIOUSLY REALIZED. BRIG. GEN. ZEITSMAN OF SAG SECURITY POLICE (MBABANE 2131) INDICATED THAT THE ONE AREA WHERE A LIBERATION MOVEMENT (PRESUMABLY ANC) HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN AN UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE WAS PORT ELIZABETH.

B. RAPID ACCESS TO ONWARD TRANSIT FACILITIES AND ARMS (FOR ANC) IN MOZAMBIQUE THROUGH SWAZILAND.

C. GOS INABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY INTERDICT FLOW OF ARMS AND PEOPLE ACROSS SWAZILAND.

3. SWAZILAND'S PRESENT ROLE WAS TRIGGERED BY THE END OF PORTUGUESE RULE IN MOZAMBIQUE IN 1976; ITS PREVIOUSLY COMFORTABLE STATUS AS A PLACE OF ASYLUM WITH AN ACCEPTABLY LOW LEVEL OF UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY BEGAN TO CHANGE THEN. GOS TOLERATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT ACTIVITY HAS LESSENED AS IT SEES THE INCREASED LEVEL OF UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY THREATENING SWAZILAND'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MBABAN 02150 01 OF 03 241114Z

4. GOS POLICY TOWARDS ANC AND PAC IN SWAZILAND REMAINS ILL-DEFINED. THE HEAD OF THE INTELLIGENCE BRANCH (IB) OF POLICE, ENOCK TSHABALALA INFORMED EMBOFF THAT POLICE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PRIMIN TO FULFULL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN ARRESTING PERSONS WHO ENTER SWAZILAND ILLEGALLY OR ARE FOUND IN ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS THAT ARE SELDOM EXPLAINED TO HIM, HE IS SOMETIMES ORDERED BY GOS OFFICIALS (USUALLY IN THE DEPUTY PRIMIN'S OFFICE, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS) TO RELEASE PEOPLE ARRESTED. TSHABALALA IS UNAWARE OF HOW OR BY WHOM PRESSURE IS EXERTED ON THE DEPUTY PRIMIN'S OFFICE. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN EARLIER REPORTS, LIBERATION MOVEMENT MATTERS ARE HANDLED DIRECTLY FROM THE KING'S KRAAL AT LOBAMBA WITH THE KING PERSONALLY TAKING AN ACTIVE PART. IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT WHOEVER IS ATTEMPTING TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ARRESTED LIBERATION MOVEMENT MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO WORK THROUGH LOBAMBA, NOT DIRECTLY ON THE DEPUTY PRIMIN'S OFFICE; IT IS FAR TOO IMPORTANT A MATTER TO BE

DECIDED ANYWHERE ELSE. THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE
ANY SET RULES GOVERNING THESE CASES. END COMMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBABAN 02150 02 OF 03 241120Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 /082 W

-----038724 241132Z /12

R 240830Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5055
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 MBABANE 2150

5. THERE IS A GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG POLICE AND
OTHER CONTACTS THAT, FOR THE PRESENT, THE LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS ARE NOT A DIRECT THREAT TO THE GOS (EXCEPT
TO THE EXTENT THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES MAY INVITE SAG
RETALIATION AGAINST SWAZILAND). THERE IS ALSO AN
INCREASING SOPHISTICATION ON PART OF GOS LEADERS
CONCERNING MOZAMBIQUE. THEY HAVE LOST MOST OF THEIR
EARLY PARANOIA CONCERNING GPRM INTENTIONS AND NOW
REALIZE THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS SO INVOLVED IN RHODESIAN
WAR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND REFUGEE PROBLEMS THAT
IT HAS LITTLE TIME LEFT FOR PLANNING OVERTHROW OF
SWAZILAND. HOWEVER, GOS REMAINS WARY OF GPRM'S LONG-RANGE
INTENTIONS, ESPECIALLY MOZAMBIQUE'S SUPPORT OF DISSIDENT SWAZI
ELEMENTS.

6. THE ROYAL SWAZILAND POLICE CONSIDERS ITSELF TO BE IN AN
ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. TSHABALALA
STATED THAT HE TRIES TO KEEP A WATCH OVER PAC AND ANC
ACTIVITIES BUT HAS ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS. THE IB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MBABAN 02150 02 OF 03 241120Z

HAS BEEN STARVED FOR FUNDS AND MEN FOR YEARS.
AT PRESENT, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 65 MEN WITH SIX
VEHICLES (TWO AT HEADQUARTERS AND FOUR AT DISTRICT
OFFICES) TO COVER ENTIRE COUNTRY. BY COMPARISON,
PAC AND ANC NEVER SEEM TO SUFFER A SHORTAGE OF
VEHICLES OR OPERATING FUNDS. TSHABALALA TACITLY
ADMITTED THAT IB HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO
EFFECTIVELY PENETRATE ANC OR PAC. OTHER POLICE
SOURCES INDICATE TWO MAIN REASONS ARE:

A. MANY OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT MEMBERS HODL WELL-PAYING
JOBS IN SWAZILAND OR HAVE ACCESS TO FUNDS AND ARE
NOT LIKELY TO BE TEMPTED BY THE PALTRY SUMS OFFERED
BY IB TO INFORMERS.

B. MOST OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT MEMBERS ARE BETTER EDUCATED,
MORE MOTIVATED, AND MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN SWAZI POLICEMEN
AND THEREFORE NOT LIKELY TO BE TURNED. TSHABALALA WAS UNABLE TO
SHED MUCH LIGHT ON WHAT ANC OR PAC INTENTIONS ARE
TOWARDS SWAZILAND OR THEIR OPERATIONS. HE STATED THAT
THEY GET MOST OF THEIR INFORMATION DURING INTERROGATION
OF PRISONERS BUT EVEN THIS HAS PRODUCED ONLY LIMITED
RESULTS. MOST LIBERATION MOVEMENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE
BEEN APPREHENDED FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY ON THEIR WAY TO RSA
CLAIM NOT TO BE WELL INFORMED AS YET ABOUT WHAT THEIR
ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE. NO ANC OR PAC MEMBER APPREHENDED
HAS STATED THAT HE WAS GIVEN AN ANTI-SWAZILAND ASSIGN-
MENT OF ANY SORT.

7. ON THE QUESTION OF WHY SOME BUT NOT ALL PAC MEMBERS
WERE DETAINED, TSHABALALA STATED THAT ALL PAC MEMBERS
LEBALLO HAD NAMED AS WELL AS OTHERS THAT IB FELT
HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN "UNACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MBABAN 02150 02 OF 03 241120Z

WERE DETAINED. THOSE NOT ARRESTED WERE EITHER
ACCEPTABLE TO LEBALLO OR INVOLVED IN PERIPHERAL
PAC ACTIVITY. ON QUESTION OF WHY RICHARD MALINGA
AND ENOCK ZULU (MBABANE 2034) WERE ONLY PAC
MEMBERS ARRESTED AND BROUGHT TO TRIAL, TSHABALA
STATED THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO
SECURE CONVICTION OF PAC MEMBERS NOW IN DETENTION
ON BASIS OF ARMS FOUND IN MALINGA'S AND ZULU'S
POSSESSION AT TIME OF RAID. GOS WAS UNWILLING TO
RISK HAVING PAC MEMBERS ARRESTED ON ARMS CHARGE
AND ACQUITTED, HENCE THEY WERE DETAINED. THIS LED
TO TSHABALA'S NOTING THAT ENOCK ZULU, DURING HIS

INTERROGATION, STATED THAT MKHWANZANZI WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE
FOR PAC MEMBERS RETURNING TO SOUTH AFRICAN FROM ABROAD;
THAT WAS HIS (ZULU'S) RESPONSIBILITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBABAN 02150 03 OF 03 241122Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 /082 W

-----038736 241133Z /12

R 240830Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5056
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 MBABANE 2150

8. ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE DIS-
CUSSION WAS TSHABALALA'S (WHO IS GENERALLY VERY
VERY CAUTIONS)MUTED AND CAREFULLY WORDED LAMENT
ABOUT THE LACK OF FUNDS AND MEN FOR THE IB
AND THE RESULTING DETERIORATION IN SWAZILAND'S
INTELLIGENCE GATHERING CAPACITY AND SECURITY. TSHABALALA
SQUARELY BLAMES THE PRIMIN FOR DIVERTING FUNDS FROM
THE POLICE TO THE ARMY. THE PRIMIN'S INTENT BECAME
CLEAR SEVERAL DAYS LATER WHEN EMBOFF WAS DISCUSSING
SWAZILAND'S SECURITY SITUATION WITH MANZINI DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER, WALTER DLAMINI. HE STATED THAT AN
INTELLIGENCE UNIT HAS BEEN SET UP INSIDE THE ARMY
WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE
PRIMIN ON INFILTRATION, WHICH HAS ORDINARILY BEEN
A POLICE RESPONSIBILITY. THE ARMY IS ALREADY
PATROLLING IN THE INGWAVUMA AND LAVUMISA AREAS.

9. TSHABALALA FEELS THAT SWAZILAND IS ABOUT TO
ENTER PERIOD OF INCREASED STRESS WITH THE LIBERA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MBABAN 02150 03 OF 03 241122Z

TION MOVEMENTS AND MOZAMBIQUE AS MANY OF THE YOUNG
SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS WHO FLED RSA IN THE AFTERMATH
OF THE 1976 RIOTS BEGIN TO RETURN. HE IS COUNTING
ON SOBHUZA'S PRESENCE TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE
ON THE EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON SWAZILAND.
WACHOB

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MBABAN02150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0985
Format: TEL
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780623/aaaaatxy.tel
Line Count: 288
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8f3a1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2219451
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWAZILAND SECURITY AFFAIRS AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
TAGS: PINS, PINR, WZ, SF, PAC, ANC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f3a1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014